

Dockers Make Wycombe Toil

Wycombe Wanderers 3 Tilbury 1

AS tottery as a "morning-after" hangover, Wycombe Wanderers toiled through their F.A. Cup fourth qualifying round match with Tilbury.

The London Leaguers — unbeaten in their previous 38 outings — surprised Wycombe by playing intelligent, workmanlike football with no "blood and thunder" tactics and it was just as well for Wanderers that George Blair and Len Worley both scored splendid opportunist goals at crucial times in the game.

It was a pity that Tilbury were so untypically bad in front of goal. Had they possessed some marksmen the temperature of this not over-exciting cup tie might have veered from moderately warm to hot.

Wanderers gave another jerky, strained display showing only tantalising glimpses of their superior skills and Tilbury, whose soccer emphasised their ambitions to join a higher league, were able to command a fair share of the game.

A facial injury to substitute right-half Dave Worley which kept him off the field for most of the first half while he had six stitches inserted in a wound, knocked Wycombe off balance but they rarely showed sustained power even when back to full strength.

UNCERTAINTY

Blair, who dropped back to wing-half after Worley's injury, sparkled in his new role and found time to volley a fine 24th minute opening goal after some weak shooting by the Wycombe forwards. Despite Charlie Gale's strong, determined play the Wycombe defence had moments of acute uncertainty and John Fisher, who had to have repairs for a painful knock on his leg, was far from his top form.

After 30 minutes Tilbury right half John Brennan snapped a low

drive into the Wycombe net and almost immediately Ken Brown made an acrobatic save to keep out inside-right Brian Russell.

Wycombe's attack was frankly lop-sided as the experiment of playing Ivor Ashby at inside-left collapsed around the ears of Steve Hyde. Both had miserable games. Hyde looked flurried and shot erratically while Ashby never made contact with the rest of the line. Fortunately, Len Worley's machinations enabled him to find a way around full-back Bernard Smith yet even he was inclined to overkick his centres.

But it was Worley who jolted Tilbury's complacency with a 55th minute goal worthy of a cup final. He took Hyde's cleverly lobbed pass in his stride, wriggled past two of the dockers' defenders and fired home an unstoppable shot. When goalkeeper Eric King grasped Ashby's ankles in the 65th minute to give John Beck a successful penalty kick at goal it was all over.

SKIPPER STAR AT WYCOMBE

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WYCOMBE WANDERERS, handicapped by an early injury to right-half Dave Worley, fought back strongly to gain a well deserved F.A. Cup victory over a speedy and determined—but off-the-mark—Tilbury side.

Wycombe played for most of the first half with only 10 men after Worley, in his first senior game of the season, had been taken off with a facial injury.

Their forwards, inspired by skipper Len Worley, Dave's cousin, showed much more precision than Tilbury's. Worley's sparkling wing runs often bamboozled the Tilbury defence, and from one of his passes Blair scored after 23 minutes.

There was plenty of punch in the go-ahead Tilbury side, whose dominating wing halves, McCarthy and Brennan, gave the forwards plenty of the ball. Brennan equalised after half an hour with a long, low shot.

Dave Worley resumed for Wycombe just before half-time.

Centre-half Johnny Fisher kept a close watch on 17-year-old centre-forward Dai Evans, who later moved to the left wing.

Len Worley scored a brilliant goal 10 minutes after the interval. In the 65th minute Tilbury goalkeeper King fouled Ashby shortly after saving a hot shot from James, and right-back Johnny Beck scored with the spot kick.